

## The Sidney W. Mintz Lectures in Anthropology

1992 Eric Wolf	2002 Immanuel Wallerstein
1993 Verena Stolcke	2003 Clifford Geertz
1994 Marshall Sahlins	2004 Andre Gingrich
1995 Laura Nader	2005 Rebecca J. Scott
1996 Nancy Scheper-Hughes	2006 Ashraf Ghani
1997 Noam Chomsky	2007 Marion Nestle
2000 Fredrik Barth	2008 Orlando Patterson
2001 Paul Farmer	2009 Virginia Domínguez

JOHNS HOPKINS  
U N I V E R S I T Y

THE SIDNEY W. MINTZ  
LECTURES IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
Department of Anthropology  
404 Macaulay Hall  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, MD 21218

The Johns Hopkins University Department of Anthropology Announces

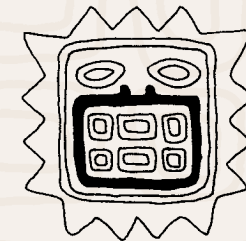
The Seventeenth Annual Sidney W. Mintz Lecture  
in Anthropology

“IMAGINARY MONEYS: TRANSACTIONS, MARKETS  
AND THE STATE IN HAITI”

Federico Neiburg

Professor of Anthropology

The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



8:00 P.M.

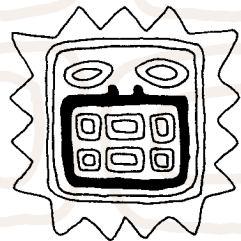
Wednesday, November 10, 2010  
Mason Hall Auditorium

Parking: South Gate Garage, off Wyman Park Drive  
The Homewood Campus

**Reception to Follow**

This series honors Sidney W. Mintz for his contributions to anthropology and to the Hopkins Department, which he helped to create in 1975. The Lectures are sustained by a fund created for this purpose, to which many of Professor Mintz's friends, colleagues and students have contributed

The Lectures aim to assess anthropology's achievements in research areas on which Professor Mintz has worked, and to consider research directions for the future. Hence they may deal with such questions as political and economic inequality, racism, and ethnicity, as seen from anthropology's interdisciplinary perspective. The Lectures usually focus upon key issues in modern life, or controversies in the social sciences.



## Federico Neiburg



This year's Mintz Lecturer found his way to anthropology at an early age. Upon completing undergraduate study at Mexico's National School of Anthropology and History, he was awarded a nationwide prize for the year's best essay by an undergraduate. The essay would later be published as *Identidad y conflicto en la sierra mazateca*, by the press of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History.

Professor Neiburg went on to complete his doctoral degree at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, where he has taught since. But he found time to teach

as well at the the École Normale Supérieure (Paris), the Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico City), and the Universidad de Buenos Aires. He was a Hewlett Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago, and participated last year in a conference at Johns Hopkins, organized by Professor Jane Guyer, chair of the Department of Anthropology.

Professor Neiburg has carried out field research in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. But since 2007 he has led a pioneering collective anthropological research project, based in the Republic of Haiti. That project, with which he deals in part in his Mintz Lecture, involves the gathering of considerable ethnographic data on the daily life of the Haitian people. The project has also become an important arena for the training of young Brazilian and Haitian ethnographers, under the auspices of academic institutions in both nations. As such, it promises to serve as a model for future such enterprises.

In his early postdoctoral research, Professor Neiburg looked at the links that tied together the family relations of academic intellectuals and political practice. In doing so he paid particular attention to the ways that kinship was implicated in the rise and perpetuation of *peronismo* in Argentina. That research resulted in another prizewinning book (*Los intelectuales y la invención del peronismo*), a solid contribution to the anthropology of intellectuals, national cultures and political leadership.

In recent years, Professor Neiburg's investigations have been concerned with the anthropology of money: the uses of numeration and the relationships between economists' views of money and the monetary ideas and practices of Everyman. In recent years he has published articles on that subject in such leading journals as *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and *Anthropological Theory*. In his lecture, he brings these themes—economy, politics, money and numbers—into alignment with Haitian ethnography.

Sidney Mintz is known for his anthropological work on the Caribbean region, the anthropology of food and eating, and the relationship between ethnography and history. His work aims to uncover links between cultural forms and political economy; to treat issues of social assortment and inequality; and to examine the social and technical history of food. He has done fieldwork in Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti, Iran, and Hong Kong.

Mintz began his career as a student of the Caribbean region, and later took up the study of food and society. Among his publications, *Worker in the Cane* (1960), the life history of a Puerto Rican sugarcane worker, is an anthropological classic, now in print for half a century.

Drawing on his Caribbean work, in 1985 Mintz published a history of sugar entitled *Sweetness & Power*. That study became a model for historical studies of food commodities, and has appeared in more than a dozen languages besides English (most recently in Arabic and Chinese). In it, Mintz traces the emergence of European overseas agrarian capitalism and the growth of consumer society by looking at the role in diet of such prosaic commodities as sugar and the stimulant beverages.

*The World of Soy* (2008), a volume of papers on soy foods edited by Mintz and two colleagues, is a pioneering exploration by social scientists of the contested place that soybeans occupy in the global food system.

Mintz's latest book, *Three Ancient Colonies. Caribbean Themes and Variations* (The W.E.B. Du Bois Lecture Series, Harvard University), appeared earlier this year. It deals comparatively and retrospectively with the three Caribbean societies in which he did most of his ethnographic work.

Professor Mintz is Research Professor and Wm. L. Straus Jr. Professor Emeritus in the Department of Anthropology. Among his awards and honors are Yale's DeVane (Phi Beta Kappa) Medal for undergraduate teaching (1972); the Thomas Henry Huxley Medal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (1992); and the Distinguished Lecturer prize of the American Anthropological Association (1994). Mintz is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.